

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187903
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 SCS-06 H-01 CA-01 HA-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 DODE-00 SP-02 EB-08
NSC-05 /074 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:HDCOLLUMS:CSR
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
EUR/SE:RCEWING
EUR:GSVEST
L/CA:RDALTON
SCS:EKIRINCICH
H:NCLEDSKY

-----055547 260011Z /15

P R 252234Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187903

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, TU

SUBJECT: PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY

REF: ANKARA 5321

1. TOWARD END OF MEETING WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL
JULY 24 (SEPTTEL), DEPT COUNSELOR NIMETZ REFERRED TO MFA'S
INITIAL FAVORABLE REACTION TO DRAFT PRISONER TREATY (REFTEL)
AND INDICATED IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH CON-
GRESS IF DRAFT TEXT COULD BE INITIALLED AT EARLY DATE OR,
AT LEAST, DATE SET FOR TEAM TO TRAVEL TO ANKARA FOR NEGO-
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PAGE 02 STATE 187903

TIATIONS. ALTERNATIVELY, TURKS COULD SEND TEAM TO
WASHINGTON OR INDICATE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS ANY
SUGGESTED CHANGES IN US DRAFT. ESENBEL UNDERTOOK TO RE-
PORT THESE COMMENTS TO ANKARA.

2. DRAWING ON REFTTEL (PARA 1 ONLY), DEPT HAS BRIEFED IN-
TERESTED CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES INDICATING THAT MFA TECH-

NICAL EXPERT, ON FIRST READING, SAID THAT U.S. DRAFT TEXT OF PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY WAS "GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE" AND THAT ANY PROBLEMS WOULD BE "MINOR". HOWEVER, GOT IS STILL STUDYING DRAFT AND HAS NOT RPT NOT YET DEVELOPED DETAILED COMMENTS.

3. DEPT SHARES CONCERNS OF EMBASSY AND MFA RE CONGRESSIONAL

PRESSURE FOR LINKAGE BETWEEN PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY AND ARMS EMBARGO. WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO INTERESTED CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES THAT ATTEMPTS TO LINK ISSUES COULD COMPLICATE EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE TREATY AND COULD PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS LIKELY CONGRESSMAN SAWYER (R-MICH) WILL INTRODUCE AMENDMENT ON HOUSE FLOOR LINKING EMBARGO ISSUE TO PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY.

4. MANY OTHER CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PRISONER ISSUE AS THEY PREPARE THEIR CONGRESSMAN FOR UPCOMING HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF EMBARGO ISSUE. OUR CONTACTS INDICATE THAT NOT RPT NOT ALL INTERESTED CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES SHARE SAWYER'S VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO SECURE RETURN OF ZENZ, MCDANIEL, AND OTHER AMERICANS IMPRISONED IN TURKEY. HOWEVER, ABSENT SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF REASONABLE PROGRESS TOWARD NEGOTIATING TRANSFER TREATY, THERE WILL CLEARLY CONTINUE TO BE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR LINK-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 187903

ING EMBARGO QUESTION TO PRISONER ISSUE. ACCORDINGLY, IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN FROM MFA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE EITHER AGREEMENT ON A DRAFT TO BE INITIALIZED OR, ALTERNATIVELY, ON A DATE FOR NEGOTIATING TEAM TO COME TO ANKARA OR FOR A TURKISH DELEGATION TO COME TO WASHINGTON. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE187903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HDCOLUMNS:CSR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780305-0887
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780721/aaaaasbs.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd0de76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 5321
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1891164
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY
TAGS: CASC, TU
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd0de76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014